

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (canceled)

Claim 2. (withdrawn) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to Claim 1, wherein the cap or casing is a rigid form shaped to fit over the projecting parts of the instrumentation.

Claim 3. (withdrawn) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to Claim 1, wherein the cap or casing is a rigid three-dimensional oval or parallelepiped for fitting over the projecting parts of the instrumentation.

Claim 4. (withdrawn) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to Claim 1, wherein the fastener portion includes a lower frame of the cap or casing provided with an aperture for the inserting the instrumentation having a toothed edge for locking the cap or casing onto parts of the instrumentation where installed adjacent the bone.

Claim 5. (withdrawn) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to Claim 4, wherein the instrumentation includes pedicles installed into the bone, and the toothed edge of the lower frame has teeth spacings for locking onto the pedicles.

Claim 6. (canceled)

Claim 7. (previously amended) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 21, wherein the fastener portion includes a lower frame of the cap or casing provided with an open, box-like aperture for the placement over the instrumentation.

Claim 8. (previously amended) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 21, wherein the cap or casing is a pliable or flexible pouch.

Claim 9. (canceled)

Claim 10. (previously amended) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 21, wherein the cap or casing is a pliable or flexible sheath.

Claim 11. (canceled)

Claim 12. (canceled)

Claim 13. (withdrawn) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 1, wherein the cap or casing has displaceable parts for adjustment of its length, width, or height snugly around the instrumentation.

Claim 14. (withdrawn) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 13, wherein the displaceable parts of the cap or casing are formed with slidable panels.

Claim 15. (withdrawn) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 13, wherein the displaceable parts of the cap or casing are formed with pleats.

Claim 16. (withdrawn) A method for preventing ingrowth and protecting surrounding soft tissue from instrumentation installed in a bone comprising: encapsulating projecting parts of instrumentation installed in a bone in a hollow cap or casing portion which is dimensioned to be placed over and fit snugly around the instrumentation; and fastening the cap or casing using a fastener portion provided at a lower edge of the cap or casing for securing it to adjacent bone areas or tissues or to parts of the instrumentation where it is installed in the bone.

Claim 17. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 16, wherein the cap or casing is a rigid three-dimensional form, and the fastener portion includes a lower frame of the cap or casing.

Claim 18. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 16, wherein the cap or casing is a flexible or pliable pouch, and the fastener portion includes one or more drawstrings.

Claim 19. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 16, wherein the cap or casing is a flexible or pliable sheath, and the fastener portion includes a cinch ring having suture strings tied to a lower edge of the sheath threaded there through.

Claim 20. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 16, wherein the fastener portion includes sutures attached to a lower edge of the cap or casing.

Claim 21. (currently amended) A bone instrumentation cover or shield capable of being permanently installed over the instrumentation during bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure comprising:

a flexible or pliable hollow cap or casing pouch adapted for permanent installation or for removal in a subsequent surgical procedure for preventing irritation or injury and which is dimensioned to be placed over and to fit snugly around and to encapsulate the projecting parts of the instrumentation which has been installed in the bone and

a fastener portion provided at a lower edge of the cap or casing pouch for securing said cap or casing to adjacent bone areas or tissue or to parts of the instrumentation where the instrumentation has been installed in the bone and whereby dislodging or displacement is precluded, said fastener portion comprising:

a cinch ring provided with openings therein, said cinch ring not being a part of said hollow cap or casing pouch, and said cinch ring being tubular in form having one or more draw strings for tightening the cover or shield

circumferentially around the instrumentation during said bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure;

a plurality of adjustable suture strings having a plurality of first ends and a plurality of second ends, said plurality of first ends of said plurality of adjustable suture strings being fixedly connected to said hollow cap or casing pouch, and said plurality of second ends of said plurality of adjustable suture strings threaded through said cinch ring for tightening the hollow cap or casing pouch vertically down onto the cinch ring over the instrumentation during said bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure; and

a plurality of non-adjustable suture strings having a plurality of first ends and a plurality of second ends, said plurality of first ends of said plurality of non-adjustable suture strings being fixedly connected to said hollow cap or casing pouch, and said plurality of second ends of said plurality of non-adjustable suture strings being fixedly connected to said cinch ring, whereby said cinch ring can be cinched horizontally around the lower parts of the instrumentation adjacent the bone using the adjustable sutures provided at the lower end of the cap or casing pouch;

wherein said hollow cap or casing pouch provides a mechanical barrier for preventing ingrowth of bone or fibrous tissue into the interstices of the instrumentation.

Claim 22. (currently amended) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 21 wherein said hollow cap or casing pouch comprises [[one]] a medically safe material which is a member selected from the group consisting of GoreTex™, Dacron™ and polyurethane.